

21. (Replacement) A structure according to claim 4 wherein said protuberance is sphere like.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

The requested changes to the Specification in paragraph 4 of the Office Action have been made:

Claims 17 and 21 have been amended in response to the claim objection to correct typographical errors which are not directed to questions of patentability.

Claims 7-8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested in view of the remarks herein. An example of a flexible support is 230 in Figure 28 which can be rigid or compliant such as a spring or elastomeric material as in claims 7-8 and 10.

Claims 1-27 and 41-47 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Beaman et al. (5635846).

Applicants have petitioned for correcting the filing receipt to state that: "This application is a Continuation-in-part of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/088,394 filed on June 1, 1998, which is a Divisional Application of US Application 08/754,869 filed on November 22, 1996 now issued as US Patent 5,821,763, which is a Continuation of US Application No. 08/754,869 filed on April 30, 1993 now issued as US Patent 5,635,846" in which the Examiner believe that support for rejected claims

1-27 and 41-47 can be found. Applicants respectfully submit that this overcomes this rejection and request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants note that Figures 19-31 have been added by the present continuation-in-part.

Enclosed herewith is an IDS listing the prior art cited in each of the above identified applications.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

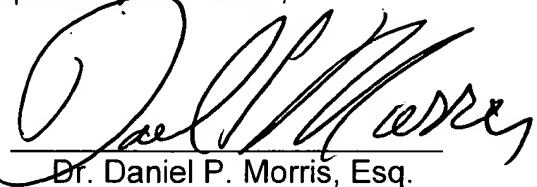
MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he

or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Daniel P. Morris", written over a horizontal line.

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